

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-138 are pending in this application. All pending claims are reproduced below to indicate their status. The claims that were added in the preliminary amendment of December 6, 2001 are underlined to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.73(b)(2). Original claims 1-7 remain unamended. Claims 8-138 that were added in the preliminary amendment also remain unamended.

1 1. (Unamended) A system for video production, comprising a source of
2 prerecorded video and audio signals from a prerecorded storage medium, a source of user
3 supplied video and audio signals, a video and audio mixer for combining the prerecorded
4 and user supplied signals to provide combined video and audio outputs, a production
5 monitor connected to the mixer to display to the user the mixed signals, and a storage or
6 reproduction device receiving a mixed video signal output from the mixer, wherein the
7 prerecorded video signals from the prerecorded storage medium have a video signal
8 content prekeyed with a keying signal to indicate areas within the prerecorded video
9 signal to be replaced by the user supplied video signals, the mixer being operative to
10 recognize the keying signal and substitute the user supplied video signal for those portions
11 of said prerecorded video including said keying signal, and the mixer being operative to
12 convert signals from the prompting channel into production control signals.

1 2. (Unamended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the control signals
2 include user prompts displayed on the production monitor but absent from the combined
3 video output.

1 3. (Unamended) A recording medium carrying a prerecorded video signal,
2 prekeyed to define background of images defined by said video signal, which video

3 signal, on playback by a user of the recording medium in apparatus configured to
4 recognize the prekeyed background areas, will generate a signal into which may be
5 inserted, at least in those background areas, a local signal provided by the user.

1 4. (Unamended) A recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the
2 video signal prerecorded on the medium is predistorted by enhancing the brightness of at
3 least the lowlights of the prerecorded signal outside said background areas while
4 maintaining the background areas at or below black level.

1 5. (Unamended) A recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the
2 recording medium further carries at least one audio channel, and at least one prompting
3 channel including data translatable into instructions for control of the user provided video
4 signal.

1 6. (Unamended) A recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the data
2 in the prompting channel is translatable into video data optionally overlayable on video
3 data from said video channel.

1 7. (Unamended) A system for generating video signals comprising
2 prerecorded video signals overlaid on user provided video signals, comprising a recording
3 medium carrying a prerecorded video signal, prekeyed to define background of images
4 defined by said video signal, which video signal, on playback by a user of the recording
5 medium in apparatus configured to recognize the prekeyed background areas, will
6 generate a signal into which may be inserted, at least in those background areas, a local
7 signal provided by the user, the video signal prerecorded on the medium being
8 predistorted by enhancing the brightness of at least the lowlights of the prerecorded signal
9 outside said background areas while maintaining the background areas at or below black
10 level, and a mixer receiving video signals generated by playback of video signals from

11 said recording medium and video signals from a user provided source, the mixer including
12 means for enhancing the brightness of at least the lowlights of the user provided signal to
13 a similar degree as the lowlight enhancement of the prerecorded signal, and a luminance
14 keyer receiving said prerecorded signal and said lowlight enhanced user provided signal to
15 produce an overlaid video signal in which the user signal is overlaid on the keyed portions
16 of the prerecorded signal, and means for restoring the lowlights of the overlaid video
17 signal to their original levels to provide an output signal.

1 8. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) An apparatus
2 configured to combine video signals from a plurality of video sources, comprising:

3 an input configured to receive a first video signal from a pre-recorded video source
4 and configured to receive a second video signal from a second video
5 source, the first video signal defining a foreground and including pre-
6 keyed background portions;

7 a mixer coupled with the input and configured to replace the identified pre-keyed
8 background portions of the first video source with the second video
9 signal to generate a synchronized video signal; and

10 an output coupled with the mixer and configured to provide the synchronized
11 video signal to an output device.

1 9. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the first video source comprises one from a group comprising a
3 videotape, a video disk, a DVD, a Compact Disc, an optical storage medium, a solid state
4 storage medium, and a magnetic storage medium.

1 10. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the second video source comprises a camera for capturing video images.

1 11. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 10, wherein the second video signal is a live video signal from the camera for
3 capturing video images.

1 12. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the mixer further comprises a switcher configured to detect the pre-
3 keyed background portions of the first video signal and configured to generate a combined
4 video signal from non-keyed portions of the first video signal and the second video signal.

1 13. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the mixer further comprises a brightness enhancement circuit configured
3 to enhance a brightness level of lowlights in the second video signal.

1 14. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the first video signal comprises a prompting channel.

1 15. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 14, wherein the prompting channel includes prompting signals.

1 16. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 15, wherein the mixer further comprises a closed caption decoder configured to
3 extract text from the prompting signal for display on the output device.

1 17. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 15, wherein the mixer extracts the control signals from the prompting channel for
3 controlling an external device coupled with the mixer.

1 18. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 17, wherein the external device is the second video source.

1 19. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 12, wherein the mixer further comprises a time base control unit configured to
3 receive the first video signal and the second video signal and configured to synchronize
4 the first video signal and the second video signal.

1 20. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the output device comprises one from a group comprising a videotape, a
3 video disk, a DVD, a Compact Disc, an optical storage medium, a solid state storage
4 medium, and a magnetic storage medium.

1 21. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the output device comprises one from a group comprising a television
3 and a video monitor.

1 22. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the first video signal comprises one from a group comprising a
3 composite video signal, an S-video signal, a digital video signal, and an optical digital
4 video signal.

1 23. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the pre-keyed portions comprise one from a group comprising chroma-
3 key portions and luminance key portions.

1 24. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 8, wherein the mixer is further configured to identify the pre-keyed background
3 portions of the first video signal prior to replacement of the pre-keyed background
4 portions.

1 25. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) A method for
2 producing a combined video signal from a plurality of video signals from a plurality of
3 video sources, comprising:

4 receiving a first video signal from a pre-recorded video source, the first video
5 signal including a keying signal;

6 receiving a second video signal from second video source; and

7 replacing the keying signal with the second video signal to generate a video signal
8 comprising portions of the first video signal and the second video
9 signal.

1 26. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 25, wherein the first video signal further
3 comprises a prompting signal.

1 27. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 26, wherein the prompting signal includes

3 at least one from a group comprising text, dimension indicators, and camera control
4 signals.

1 28. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 26, further comprising the step of
3 generating screen prompts from the prompting signal.

1 29. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 25, further comprising the step of extracting
3 a control signal from the first video signal.

1 30. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 29, wherein the control signal is adapted to
3 control the second video source.

1 31. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 25, wherein the keying signal comprises
3 one from a group comprising a chrominance signal, a luminance signal, and a color signal.

1 32. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 25, wherein the step of replacing further
3 comprises:

4 reading a luminance signal from the first video signal; and
5 blocking at least a portion of the first video signal and passing at least a portion of
6 the second video signal in response to a value of the luminance signal
7 being greater than or equal to a predetermined value.

1 33. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 25, wherein the step of replacing further
3 comprises:

4 reading a luminance signal from the first video signal; and
5 passing at least a portion of the first video signal and passing at least a portion of
6 the second video signal in response to a value of the luminance signal
7 being greater than or equal to a predetermined value.

1 34. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 32, wherein the luminance signal of the first
3 video signal further comprises a prompting signal and the method further comprising:

4 passing at least a portion of the luminance signal of the first video signal to a
5 closed caption decoder; and
6 decoding the prompting signal to recover data therein.

1 35. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 34, further comprising:

3 passing the data to a processing system; and
4 generating control signals from the data.

1 36. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 25, further comprising:

3 reading a chrominance signal from the first video signal; and
4 blocking at least a portion of the first video signal and passing at least a portion of
5 the second video signal in response to a value of the chrominance
6 signal being greater than or equal to a predetermined value.

1 37. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 25, further comprising:

3 reading a chrominance signal from the first video signal; and
4 passing at least a portion of the first video signal and blocking at least a portion of
5 the second video signal in response to a value of the chrominance
6 signal being less than or equal to the predetermined value.

1 38. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 37, wherein the chrominance signal of the
3 first video signal further comprises a prompting signal and the method further comprising:

4 passing at least a portion of the chrominance signal of the first video signal to a
5 closed caption decoder; and

6 decoding the prompting signal to recover data therein.

1 39. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 38, further comprising:

3 passing the data to a processing system; and

4 generating control signals from the data.

1 40. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the combined video signal of claim 25, further comprising identifying the
3 keying signal in the first video signal prior to replacing the keying signal.

1 41. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) A method of
2 producing a video recording having a first video signal for use with mixing with another
3 video signal, the method comprising:

4 capturing on a storage medium the first video signal from a first video source;

5 identifying a portion of the first video signal for later overlay by a portion of an

6 unkeyed second video signal from a second video source;

7 keying the identified portion of the first video signal; and

8 recording the captured and keyed first video signal on a recording medium.

1 42. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the video recording of claim 41, wherein the keying the identified portion of the
3 first video signal step further comprises the step of saturating a pre-determined color of
4 the identified portion of the first video signal.

1 43. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the video recording of claim 41, wherein the keying the identified portion of the
3 first video signal step further comprises the step of altering a luminance level of the
4 identified portion of the first video signal.

1 44. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the video recording of claim 41, wherein the video signal includes a prompting
3 channel.

1 45. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method of
2 producing the video recording of claim 44, further comprising providing a prompting
3 signal in the prompting channel for providing one from a group comprising on-screen text
4 prompts and control signals.

1 46. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the video recording of claim 41, wherein the recording medium further
3 comprises one from a group comprising a Compact Disc medium, a DVD medium, an
4 optical storage medium, solid state storage medium, a video tape medium, and a magnetic
5 storage medium.

1 47. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the video recording of claim 46, wherein the second video source is a camera
3 configured to capture video signals.

1 48. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the video recording of claim 47, wherein the camera configured to capture
3 video signals captures live video signals.

1 49. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 producing the video recording of claim 41, further comprising the step of transmitting the
3 captured and keyed first video signal over one from a group comprising a communication
4 network, a cable television network, and a satellite television network.

1 50. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method of
2 producing the video recording of claim 41, wherein the first video signal comprises one
3 from a group comprising educational video content, entertainment video content, and
4 athletic video content.

1 51. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) A video
2 playback device configured to provide video signals comprising a portion of a first video
3 signal and a portion of a second video signal, the video playback device comprising:

4 a playback mechanism configured to play a pre-recorded video medium, the pre-
5 recorded medium further comprising a pre-recorded video signal
6 including a pre-keyed portion; and
7 a mixer coupled with the playback mechanism and configured to identify the pre-
8 keyed portion of the pre-recorded video signal and configured to
9 receive a second video signal from a video source, and configured to
10 replace either the pre-keyed portion or a non-pre-keyed portion of the
11 pre-recorded video signal with the second video signal to generate an
12 output video signal.

1 52. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The video
2 playback device of claim 51, further comprising an external port configured to couple
3 with an external device for transmitting the output video signal.

1 53. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The video
2 playback device of claim 51, wherein the external device comprises one from a group
3 comprising a video monitor, a projection device, and a television.

1 54. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The video
2 playback device of claim 51, wherein the pre-recorded medium comprises one from a
3 group comprising a videotape medium, a video disk medium, a DVD medium, a Compact
4 Disc medium, a magnetic storage medium, a solid state storage medium, and an optical
5 storage medium.

1 55. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 51, wherein the video source comprises a camera for capturing video signals.

1 56. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 55, wherein the second video signal from the camera for capturing video signals
3 comprises a live video signal.

1 57. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 51, wherein the mixer further comprises a switcher configured to detect the pre-
3 keyed portions of the pre-recorded video signal.

1 58. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 57, wherein the mixer further comprises a brightness enhancement circuit
3 configured to enhance a brightness level of lowlights in the second video signal.

1 59. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 57, wherein the pre-recorded video signal further comprises a prompting channel.

1 60. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 59, wherein the prompting channel includes prompting signals.

1 61. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 59, wherein the mixer further comprises a closed caption decoder configured to
3 extract text from the prompting channel for display on an external device.

1 62. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 59, wherein the mixer extracts control signals from the prompting channel for
3 controlling an external device coupled with the mixer.

1 63. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 62, wherein the external device comprises one from a group comprising a video
3 monitor, a projection device, and a television.

1 64. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 57, wherein the mixer further comprises a time base control unit configured to
3 receive the pre-recorded video signal and the second video signal and configured to
4 synchronize the pre-recorded video signal and the second video signal.

1 65. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 52, wherein the external port couples with one from a group comprising a video
3 tape playback device, a video disk playback device, a Compact Disc playback device, a
4 DVD playback device, a solid state storage device, an optical storage device, and a
5 magnetic storage device.

1 66. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 51, wherein the pre-recorded video signal comprises one from a group comprising a
3 composite video signal, an S-video signal, a digital video signal, and an optical digital
4 video signal.

1 67. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 51, wherein the pre-keyed portions of the pre-recorded video signal comprise one
3 from a group comprising chroma-key portions and luminance key portions.

1 68. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 51, wherein the pre-recorded medium comprises a video source connected through a
3 communications network.

1 69. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) An apparatus
2 configured to combine video signals from a plurality of video sources, comprising:

3 an input configured to receive a first video signal from a pre-recorded video source
4 and configured to receive a second video signal from a second video
5 source, the first video signal including a keyed portion and a non-keyed
6 portion;

7 a mixer coupled with the input and configured to replace either the keyed portion
8 or the non-keyed portion with the second video signal to generate a
9 synchronized video signal; and

10 an output coupled with the mixer and configured to provide the synchronized
11 video signal for an output device.

1 70. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the keyed portion is a background portion and the non-keyed portion is
3 a foreground portion of the first video signal.

1 71. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the non-keyed portion is a background portion and the keyed portion is
3 a foreground portion of the video signal.

1 72. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the first video source comprises one from a group comprising a
3 videotape, a video disk, a DVD, a Compact Disc, a solid state memory medium, an optical
4 storage medium, and a magnetic storage medium.

1 73. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the second video source comprises a camera for capturing video.

1 74. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 73, wherein the second video signal comprises a live video signal from the camera
3 for capturing video.

1 75. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the mixer further comprises a switcher configured to detect the non-
3 keyed portion of the first video signal and configured to generate the synchronized video
4 signal from the non-keyed portions of the first video signal and the second video signal.

1 76. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the mixer further comprises a switcher configured to detect the keyed
3 portion of the first video signal and configured to generate the synchronized video signal
4 from the keyed portions of the first video signal and the second video signal.

1 77. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the mixer further comprises a brightness enhancement circuit
3 configured to enhance a brightness level of lowlights in the second video signal.

1 78. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the first video signal further comprises a prompting channel.

1 79. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 78, wherein the prompting channel includes prompting signals.

1 80. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 79, wherein the mixer further comprises a closed caption decoder configured to
3 extract text from the prompting signal for display on the output device.

1 81. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 78, wherein the mixer extracts the control signals from the prompting channel for
3 controlling an external device coupled with the mixer.

1 82. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 81, wherein the external device comprises one from a group comprising a video
3 monitor, a projection device, and a television.

1 83. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the mixer further comprises a time base control unit configured to
3 receive the first video signal and the second video signal to synchronize the first video
4 signal and the second video signal.

1 84. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the output device comprises one from a group comprising a videotape
3 device, a video disk device, a DVD device, a Compact Disc device, an optical storage
4 device, a solid state storage device, and a magnetic storage device.

1 85. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the output device comprises one from a group comprising a video
3 monitor, a projection device, and a television.

1 86. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the first video signal comprises one from a group comprising a
3 composite video signal, an S-video signal, a digital video signal, and an optical digital
4 video signal.

1 87. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the keyed portion of the first video signal comprises a chroma-key
3 portion.

1 88. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the keyed portion of the first video signal comprises a luminance key
3 portion.

1 89. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the non-keyed portion of the first video signal comprises a chroma-key
3 portion

1 90. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 69, wherein the non-keyed portion of the first video signal comprises a luminance
3 key portion.

1 91. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) A method for
2 combining video signals from a plurality of video signal sources, comprising:

3 receiving a first video signal from a pre-recorded video source, the first video

4 signal further comprising a keyed portion and a non-keyed portion;

5 receiving a second video signal from second video source; and

6 replacing either the keyed portion or the non-keyed portion of the first video signal

7 with the second video signal to generate a third video signal comprising

8 portions of the first video signal and the second video signal.

1 92. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the first video signal further comprises a
3 prompting signal.

1 93. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 92, wherein the prompting signal includes at least one
3 from a group comprising text, dimension indicators, and camera control signals.

1 94. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 92, further comprising the step of generating screen
3 prompts from the prompting signal.

1 95. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, further comprising the step of extracting a control
3 signal from the first video signal.

1 96. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 95, wherein the control signal is adapted to control the
3 second video source.

1 97. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the keyed portion of the first video signal
3 comprises a background portion.

1 98. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the non-keyed portion of the first video
3 signal comprises a background portion.

1 99. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the keyed portion of the first video signal
3 comprises a foreground portion.

1 100. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the non-keyed portion of the first video
3 signal comprises a foreground portion.

1 101. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the keyed portion of the first video signal is
3 a chrominance signal.

1 102. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the non-keyed portion of the first video
3 signal is a chrominance signal.

1 103. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the keyed portion of the first video signal is
3 a luminance signal.

1 104. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the non-keyed portion of the first video
3 signal is a luminance signal.

1 105. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, further comprising:

3 reading a luminance signal from the first video signal; and

4 blocking at least a portion of the first video signal and passing at least a portion of
5 the second video signal in response to a value of the luminance signal
6 being greater than or equal to a predetermined value.

1 106. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 105, wherein the luminance signal of the first video
3 signal further comprises a prompting signal and the method further comprising:

4 passing at least a portion of the luminance signal of the first video signal to a
5 closed caption decoder; and
6 decoding the prompting signal to recover data therein.

1 107. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 106, further comprising:

3 passing the data to a processing system; and
4 generating control signals from the data.

1 108. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, further comprising:

3 reading a chrominance signal from the first video signal; and
4 blocking at least a portion of the first video signal and passing at least a portion of
5 the second video signal in response to a value of the chrominance
6 signal being greater than or equal to a predetermined value.

1 109. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 108, wherein the chrominance signal of the first video
3 signal further comprises a prompting signal and the method further comprising:

4 passing at least a portion of the chrominance signal of the first video signal to a
5 closed caption decoder; and
6 decoding the prompting signal to recover data therein.

1 110. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 109, further comprising:

3 passing the data to a processing system; and

4 generating control signals from the data.

1 111. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the first video source comprises one from a
3 group comprising a videotape medium, a video disk medium, a DVD medium, a Compact
4 Disc medium, an optical storage medium, a solid state storage medium, and a magnetic
5 storage medium.

1 112. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the second video source comprises a video
3 camera.

1 113. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the third video signal comprises an output
3 video signal.

1 114. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 113, further comprising supplying the output video
3 signal to an output device.

1 115. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 114, wherein the output device comprises one from a
3 group of a visual display device and a data signal storage device.

1 116. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The method for
2 combining video signals of claim 91, wherein the first video source comprises a
3 computing device connected through a communications network.

1 117. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) An apparatus
2 configured to generate a synchronized video signal from a plurality of video signals,
3 comprising:

4 an input means for receiving a first video signal from a means for storing and for
5 receiving a second video signal from a means for capturing video, the
6 first video signal including a keyed portion and a non-keyed portion;

7 a mixing means coupled with the input means for replacing either the keyed
8 portion or the non-keyed portion with the second video signal and for
9 generating a synchronized video signal; and
10 an output means coupled with the mixing means for outputting the synchronized
11 video signal to an output device.

1 118. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the keyed portion is a background portion and the non-keyed portion
3 is a foreground portion of the first video signal.

1 119. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the non-keyed portion is a background portion and the keyed portion
3 is a foreground portion of the video signal.

1 120. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the means for storing comprises one from a group comprising a
3 videotape, a video disk, a DVD, a Compact Disc, a solid state memory medium, an optical
4 storage medium, and a magnetic storage medium.

1 121. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the means for capturing video comprises a second video source.

1 122. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 121, wherein the second video signal comprises a live video signal from the second
3 video source.

1 123. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the means for mixing further comprises a means for detecting the non-
3 keyed portion of the first video signal and a means for generating the synchronized video
4 signal from the non-keyed portions of the first video signal and the second video signal.

1 124. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the means for mixing further comprises means for detecting the keyed
3 portion of the first video signal and a means for generating the synchronized video signal
4 from the keyed portions of the first video signal and the second video signal.

1 125. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the means for mixing further comprises a means for enhancing a
3 brightness level of lowlights in the second video signal.

1 126. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the first video signal further comprises a prompting channel.

1 127. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 126, wherein the prompting channel includes prompting signals.

1 128. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 127, wherein the means for mixing further comprises a means for extracting text
3 from the prompting signal for display on the output device.

1 129. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 126, wherein the means for mixing further comprises a means for extracting the
3 control signals from the prompting channel for controlling an external device.

1 130. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 129, wherein the external device comprises one from a group comprising a video
3 monitor, a projection device, and a television.

1 131. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the output device comprises one from a group comprising a videotape
3 device, a video disk device, a DVD device, a Compact Disc device, an optical storage
4 device, a solid state storage device, and a magnetic storage device.

1 132. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the output device comprises one from a group comprising a video
3 monitor, a projection device, and a television.

1 133. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the first video signal comprises one from a group comprising a
3 composite video signal, an S-video signal, a digital video signal, and an optical digital
4 video signal.

1 134. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the keyed portion of the first video signal comprises a chroma-key
3 portion.

1 135. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the keyed portion of the first video signal comprises a luminance key
3 portion.

1 136. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the non-keyed portion of the first video signal comprises a chroma-
3 key portion.

1 137. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the non-keyed portion of the first video signal comprises a luminance
3 key portion.

1 138. (Unamended; Added in 12/6/01 Preliminary Amendment) The apparatus of
2 claim 117, wherein the means for mixing comprises a mixer.